TRENDS

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ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, December 10, 1987 -- Freight traffic carried on major U.S. railroads during the week ended December 5 totaled an estimated 19.7 billion ton-miles, 11.3 percent above the corresponding week of 1986, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 49 weeks of 1987 was an estimated 889.6 billion ton-miles carried, up 7.4 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings originated in the week ended December 5 totaled 434,797, up 10.3 percent from the corresponding week of last year, and 27.2 percent above the preceding holiday week. Compared with last year, carloadings originated were up 9.5 percent in the East and 11.2 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 18 of the 20 major commodity groups increased. Metallic ores showed a gain of 6,844 cars (66.5 percent), coal loadings increased by 4,403 cars (3.7 percent), chemicals and allied products increased by 3,270 cars (12.5 percent), and loadings of metals and products were up 2,783 cars (36.4 percent). All of the 20 commodity groups increased from the preceding holiday week.

Piggyback

The AAR reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended November 28 totaled 84,608 trailers and/or containers, 5.5 percent above last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 48 weeks of the year was 4,755,975 trailers and/or containers, up 2.7 percent from 1986.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 12/5/87:

	Loadings in Week ended December 5, 1987		Change from Corresponding Week 1986			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	33,258	I	5,132	18.2	I	9,349	39.1
Other farm products	4,090	D	411	9.1	I	1,147	39.0
Metallic ores	17,130	I	6,844	66.5	I	977	6.0
Coal	123,512	I	4,403	3.7	I	22,051	21.7
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	14,369	I	2,081	16.9	I	4,175	41.0
Nonmetallic minerals	11,540	I	2,634	29.6	I	5,159	80.8
Grain mill products	11,694	I	384	34.0	I	2,094	21.8
Food and kindred products	11,610	I	226	2.0	I	2,489	27.3
Primary forest products	10,951	I	219	2.0	I	3,775	52.6
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,834	I	398	5.4	I	1,827	30.4
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,887	I	106	0.8	I	1 623	14.4
Chemicals and allied products	29,370	I	3,270	12.5	I	7,663	35.3
Petroleum products	4,852	I	215	4.6	I	922	23.5
Stone, clay and glass products	10,227	I	878	9.4	I	2,050	25.1
Coke	6,080	I	1,844	43.5	I	829	15.8
Metals and products	10,426	I	2,783	36.4	I	1,522	17.1
Motor vehicles and equipment	21,571	I	1,644	8.3	I	7,399	52.2
Waste and scrap materials	9,875	I	2,077	26.6	I	2,491	33.7
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,567	D	569	18.1	I	382	17.5
All other carloads	80,954	I	6,383	8.6	I	15,027	22.8
Total Cars Loaded	434,797	I	40,541	10.3	I	92,951	27.2
Corresponding week of 1986	394,256						

	1987	1986	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (49 weeks)	19,664,002	18,747,413	I 4.9
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
48 Weeks ended November 28	870.0	810.6	I 7.3
Week ended December 5	19.7	17.7	I 11.3
49 Weeks cumulative	889.6	828.3	I 7.4

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